



The Killing of 32 Individuals under Torture in February 2016 31 individuals were killed by Government Forces

Report Contents:

- I. Report Methodology
- II. Executive Summary
- III. The Most Significant Cases of Death Under Torture
- IV. Conclusions and Recommendations
- Acknowledgment and Condolences

I. Report Methodology:

Since 2011, the Syrian regime has refused to recognize any arrests it had made as it accused Al-Qaeda and the terrorist groups of committing these crimes. Also, the Syrian regime doesn't recognize any torture cases or torturing to death. SNHR acquires its information from former prisoners and prisoners' families where most of the families get information about their beloved ones who are in prison by bribing the officials in charge.

At SNHR, we rely on the families' testimonies we get. However, it should be noted that there are many cases where the Syrian authorities don't give the families the dead bodies. Also, many families abstain from going to the military hospitals to bring the dead bodies of their beloved ones or even their belongings out of fear that they might themselves get arrested. Also, most of the families assure us that their relatives were in good health when the arrest was made and it is highly unlikely that they died of an illness.

Fadel Abdul Ghani, head of SNHR, says:

"The principle of "Responsibility to Protect" must be implemented as the state has failed to protect its people and all the diplomatic and peaceful efforts have failed as well. Crimes against humanity are still being perpetrated on a daily basis in Syria mainly at the hands of the state authorities."

Therefore, SNHR faces serious difficulties in the documentation process because it is banned and pursued. In light of such circumstances, it is difficult to completely verify the number of





victims as the process remains mainly based on ongoing documentation and investigation even with taking into consideration families' testimonies

Please visit the following URL for more information on our [methodology in documenting victims](#)

II. Executive Summary

SNHR documented the death of not less than 32 cases of death under torture inside official and non-official government detention centers and prisons in February 2016. The victims' details are detailed as follows:

A. Government Forces (army, security forces, local and foreign militias) killed 31 individuals under death.

B. Extremist Islamic Groups:

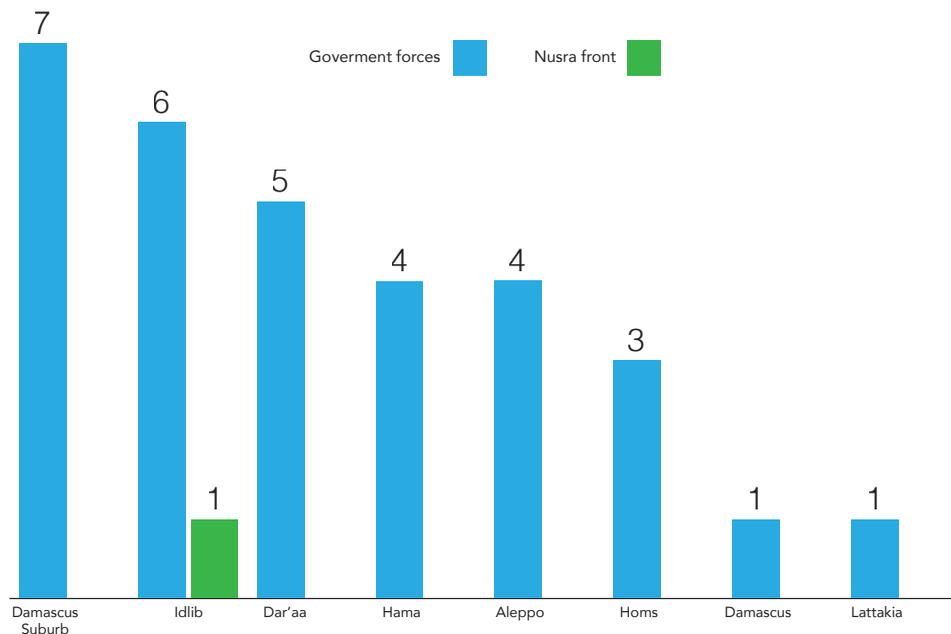
- Al Nusra Front: 1

Cases of victims being tortured to death have been recorded ceaselessly since 2011 which clearly reflects the excessive and systematic force that is being used against detainees.

Damascus suburbs governorate had the highest number of victims who were tortured to death with 7 victims, while the toll of other victims was divided as follows:

6 in Idlib, 5 in Daraa, 4 in Hama, 4 in Aleppo, 3 in Homs, 1 in Lattakia, and 1 in Damascus.

Torture victims' distribution according to the Syrian governorates and the major conflict parties in Syria:



The most significant death under torture cases in February 2016 are:

An Engineer, 2 media activists, 3 women





III. The Most Significant Cases of Death Under Torture:

Media activists:

- H.M (his name shall be kept secretive due to security concerns): from Damascus suburbs, was arrested on 1 August 2014 by government forces from his residence and he was in good health. On 7 Feb 2016 we were informed by his family that they confirmed his death under in one of the government detention centers.

- T.A (his name shall be kept secretive due to security concerns): from Hama, was arrested by government forces in 2013 from his residence. His family confirmed that he was in good health prior to his arrest. His family informed us that on 11 Feb 2016 that they confirmed his death under torture in one of the government detention centers.

Engineers:

- [Ghayath Kashmar](#), from Silmeya town in Hama, was arrested on 22 November 2015 and released on 17 December 2015. It is worth noting that the victim had heart-related problems and diabetes. He was deprived of Insulin during his arrest which caused a kidney failure. He was administered to Silmeya hospital and remained in critical state until he died on 4 Feb 2016

Women:

- Yasmeen Faki, from Aleppo, 27 was arrested by the state security branch a year ago. On 12 Feb 2016 we were informed by his family that he died under torture in one of the government detention centers. The body was delivered to the family in the Jameaa' hospital in Aleppo.

- Bahija Hafeez, from Aleppo, 25 years old, was arrested by state security branch a year ago. On 12 Feb 2016 we were informed by his family that she was killed under torture in one of the government detention centers that belonged to the state security. Her body was delivered to her family from the Jamee' hospital in Aleppo.

- Fatima Madarati, from Aleppo, 36, was arrested by state security branch a year ago. On 12 Feb 2016 we were informed by his family that she was killed under torture in one of the government detention centers that belonged to the state security. Her body was delivered to her family from the Jamee' hospital in Aleppo.





II. Conclusions and Recommendations:

SNHR notes that this huge number of torture victims who are falling on a monthly basis, with taking into consideration that this number is the minimum we were able to get information about, indicates clearly that this is a systemized policy adopted by the head of the ruling regime and all its parties and branches. This policy was carried out in a widespread manner which is a crime against humanity and also a war crime.

Some of the extremist groups have practiced torture acts that can be classified as war crimes as well as some of the armed opposition factions.

Recommendations

Security Council

- To transfer the Syrian case to the International Criminal Court.
- To impose sanctions on all the commanders that were involved in torture practices which violate the international criminal law and security council resolutions on Syria especially resolutions 2042 and 2139.
- To bind the Syrian government and the various influential parties to fully cooperate with the Human Rights Council investigation committee in order to conduct a thorough investigation on torture inside detention centers.
- To grant human rights organization access to any location in Syria.

Acknowledgment

We would like to thank everyone who helped to deliver data to SNHR and specifically the activists who cooperated with us. Furthermore, our most heartfelt condolences go out for the victims' families and relatives who agreed to cooperate with us despite their grave losses.

